

GHASRIPOOR, F. et al.  
Appl. No. To be assigned  
US National Phase of PCT/EP02/14850  
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**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

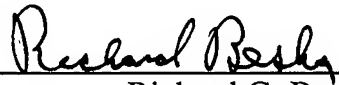
The claims have been amended to reduce the filing fees, without prejudice.

The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent applications and to include the abstract.

An early and favorable action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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